

**CITY OF PROSSER, WASHINGTON
601 7TH STREET
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Taylor called the Regular Meeting of the Prosser City Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mikayla Hunt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Becken, Chambers, Everett, Poteet, and Troemel were present. Council Member Rainer and Mayor Warden had requested excused absences.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION –(None)

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Taylor asked the Council if there were any scheduling conflicts for Council meetings in November and December 2008. Without objection, the November 25 Regular Meeting was moved to Tuesday, November 18 and the December 23 Regular Meeting was rescheduled for Tuesday, December 16. City Clerk Sherry Biggs would complete the appropriate notices.

Council Member Becken said the Benton Franklin Community Action Council (CAC) had received a \$2M Energy Assistance Grant and encouraged residents to apply for help with weatherization projects or utility bills.

REPORT FROM THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

City Administrator Charlie Bush met recently with representatives of the Grace Fellowship Church, who wished to assist homeowners with code compliance violations which they could not take care of individually. A Memorandum of Understanding will be prepared to finalize this partnership between the City and the church.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Everett, seconded by Council Member Becken to approve Consent Agenda Items A – C.

- a. Approve Payment of Payroll Check Nos. 500514 through 500531 in the Amount of \$15,947.84 for the period ending October 15, 2008
- b. Approve Payment of Claim Checks Nos. 61722 through 617921 in the Amount of \$112,828.97 and the IRS Federal Tax Wire in the Amount of \$4,301.64 for the period ending October 28, 2008

c. Approve Council Minutes of October 14, 2008

Motion passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Rainer).

PUBLIC HEARING

a) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application on the Village Park Subdivision Project

Mayor Pro Tem Taylor recessed the Regular Meeting and opened the public hearing to receive comments on the project. Informational materials on the CDBG Program were available for the public in both English and Spanish. Samantha Murphey explained in Spanish how the CDBG Program was designed to assist low and moderate income persons and the eligible uses. Sue Jetter, the grant writer for this project, was in attendance to answer any questions. Mayor Pro Tem Taylor called for public comment with none being offered. The public hearing on the CDBG Program was closed.

b) Revenue Sources for Fiscal Year 2009 and Possible Increases in Property Taxes

Mayor Pro Tem Taylor opened the public hearing to receive comments on revenue sources for Fiscal Year 2009 and possible increases in property taxes. There being no comments offered by the public, the hearing was closed.

Mayor Pro Tem Taylor reconvened the Regular Council Meeting at 7:15 p.m.

COUNCIL ACTION

ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 08- 1256 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF PROSSER, WASHINGTON TO ACT IN ALL OFFICIAL MATTERS IN REGARDS TO THE PARTICIPATION IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM

A motion was made by Council Member Everett to amend Resolution No. 08-1256, Community Development Block Grant Application for the Village Park Subdivision Improvements, by changing the amount requested from \$560,800 to \$610,067 and adopting the resolution as amended, seconded by Council Member Chambers. Motion passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Rainer).

ACCEPT AND AUTHORIZE A GRANT OF \$1,000 FROM THE WASHINGTON TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION FOR X-52 SUSTAINED ENFORCEMENT, DUI AND SPEEDING TRAFFIC SAFETY EMPHASIS

Police Chief Pat McCullough was present to explain the emphasis patrols.

A motion was made by Council Member Chambers, seconded by Council Member Everett to accept a grant of \$1,000 from the Washington Traffic Safety Commission for emphasis patrols and authorize the Mayor to complete the necessary documents. Motion passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Rainer).

ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 08-1257 DECLARING CERTAIN PROPERTY OF THE CITY OF PROSSER TO BE SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF SAID PROPERTY

A motion was made by Council Member Everett, seconded by Council Member Chambers to adopt Resolution No. 08-1257 regarding surplus property. Motion passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Rainer).

APPROVE THE AGREEMENT WITH MICROSOFT AND WA DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION SERVICES FOR DISCOUNTED SOFTWARE PURCHASING

City Clerk Sherry Biggs explained this agreement allowed the City to purchase software at a discounted price. The City has participated in this program in the past and the term had expired.

A motion was made by Council Member Everett, seconded by Council Member Becken to approve the agreement for discounted software purchasing. Motion passed 6 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT (Rainer).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) General Fund Budget Discussion

City Administrator Bush reviewed the items previously discussed, with the intent to fund the projects, if the ending Fund Balance allowed for it. Those items included animal control; a franchise attorney; additional recreation funding; and the Downtown Main Street Program.

The Council was told sales tax revenue for August 2008 was \$6,000 more than the same period last year. The Council also discussed the possibility of an 8 percent or a 12 percent garbage utility tax.

Finance Director Cathleen Koch explained several issues facing the Recreation Department. Staffing reductions were suggested, but several Council Members were concerned that the overall recreation program would suffer. City Administrator Bush discussed options for Sportsfest.

Ms. Koch also discussed the staffing situation with the “front desk” staff and noted that two positions were vacant and recommended one position as City Clerk Admin Assistant be staffed as a half time position to assist with cash receipting and records duties.

Public Works Director L.J. Da Corsi said the Public Works Department was looking at restructuring and recommended the Public Works Foreman position be left vacant. The Public Works Admin Assistant now spent most of her time assisting with finance duties. Council Member Taylor thanked the department for stepping up and assisting at this difficult time.

Council Member Chambers said the entire City staff was to be commended for their willingness to work through these problems.

The Council felt it was important to treat all employees (nonunion and union) fairly with the same level of COLA increase.

Council Member Troemel felt the City should assist with ambulance funding, but it was difficult to work without a Profit and Loss Statement on that service. Mr. Troemel suggested waiting to see the results from the Yakima County November 4th vote on establishing an EMS levy.

Mayor Pro Tem Taylor asked if there were other sources of revenue to consider. Mr. Bush named the following items: forming an EMS district; providing dispatch services for the local hospital; increasing park rental fees; and reviewing facility rental agreements. City Administrator Bush said he would investigate what fees are being charged by other cities.

City Attorney Howard Saxton mentioned Business and Occupation (B&O) Taxes, but said that tax had not been initiated on the eastern side of the Cascades.

City Administrator Bush invited everyone to attend a Sidewalks, Pathways & Bike Lanes Meeting on October 29.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the City Council at this time, the Regular Meeting of the Prosser City Council was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Mayor Paul Warden

Attest:

City Clerk Sherry Biggs